

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-07 NSC-05 CIAE-00 /038 W

----- 002335

R 302101Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3019

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, MILI, VE

SUBJ: MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER

1. WE ARE ADVISED BY COMPETENT MEDICAL AUTHORITY THAT ON FEBRUARY 3 FOREIGN MINISTER RAMON ESCOVAR SALOM WAS OPERATED ON FOR REMOVAL OF A NODULAR FIBROMATOSIS OF THE LEFT FOOT, LOCATED ON THE BOTTOM OF THE FOOT VERY CLOSE TO THE FRONT. DESPITE THE OPERATION, THE LESIONS ARE NOT HEALED, AND DR. ESCOVAR STILL EXPERIENCES PAIN AND DIFFICULTY IN WALKING.

2. ESCOVAR IS INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT HIS FAILURE TO RESPOND TO LOCAL TREATMENT OF HIS AILMENT, AND HAS EXPRESSED TO US HIS DESIRE TO ENTER THE WALTER REED MEDICAL CENTER AS AN OUTPATIENT FOR A COMPLETE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND EVALUATION OF FURTHER TREATMENT. IT WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE GOV WILL DEFRAY ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH HOSPITALIZATION AND TREATMENT.

3. WE APPRECIATE THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH ESCOVAR'S REQUEST POSES FOR THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND DEFENSE, BUT NONETHELESS STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT HIS ADMISSION TO WALTER REED BE APPROVED. ESCOVAR IS A GOOD FRIEND OF THE U.S., AND AS FOREIGN MINISTER OF VENEZUELA, HE IS OBVIOUSLY IN A KEY POSITION TO INFLUENCE THE POLICIES OF A COUNTRY WHICH NOT ONLY IS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL SOURCES OF OIL IMPORTED INTO THE U.S., CONTINUED ACCESS TO WHICH IS OF IMMENSE IMPORTANCE TO THE U.S., MILITARILY AS WELL AS

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ECONOMICALLY; BUT ALSO IN WHICH THERE IS SOME \$2 BILLION IN

PRIVATE U.S. INVESTMENT; AND TO WHICH U.S. EXPORTS AMOUNTED TO
APPROXIMATELY \$2.2 BILLION IN 1975.

4. PLEASE ADVISE.
ASENCIO

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